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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RIBBLE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 5, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable REID J. RIBBLE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Senate passed the farm bill

conference report, something the House did almost 2 weeks ago. I want to thank my House and Senate colleagues who stood firm and voted against the conference report because of the egregious cuts to SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. I am especially proud and thankful that none of my Massachusetts colleagues voted for the bill. Unfortunately, I think many of those who voted for this bill will ultimately come to regret their vote.

Now that the fight over SNAP funding and the farm bill is over, it is time to look forward and once again refocus on how we can end hunger now. Despite the attacks on the poor that come from the Republican leadership in this Congress, there are good things that are happening among the antihunger community, and there are opportunities out there that we can take advantage of as we work to end hunger now.

Every day, millions of hungry kids are able to eat a nutritious meal because of the school lunch program. In fact, 29 million children in more than 98,000 schools and residential child care institutions participate in the school lunch program on a typical day. Nearly 20 million kids receive their lunch at either a reduced price or free.

The school lunch program is a lifeline for these kids who come from poor families. It is not their fault that their parents don't earn enough for them to put food on the table. For most of these kids, this is the only nutritious meal, and in some cases, the only meal they will eat on a weekday. That is why this program is so important.

Imagine what happens to a child who goes to school hungry. It is harder for that child to pay attention in class, leading to difficulty learning and also leading to challenges in terms of their development, mentally and physically. Kids who go without food are literally at a disadvantage to those who are eating healthy meals. They are starting from a much worse position, and it is because America decides not to help.

That is changing. Participation in the school lunch program is strong, and the good news is that participation in the school breakfast program is rising.

I want to highlight a recent report from the Food Research and Action Center, or FRAC, as they are commonly known. FRAC reports that 311,000 more kids received school breakfast than the previous year.

We all know how important breakfast is. Our parents all told us to eat a healthy breakfast so we can learn and grow. I tell my kids the same thing every day, even though they don't always pay attention. The school breakfast program is a critical part of ensuring that kids from poor families are able to start the day off right; that they don't start the school day off hungry, so they can learn properly and they can develop.

Unlike the school lunch program, where the meal is served during the school day when kids are already in school, many of these school breakfast programs take place before school starts. Because of that starting time, millions of kids don't participate in the school breakfast program. That is

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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why this report from FRAC is so encouraging. Schools are starting to offer breakfast free of charge to all children, not just kids who qualify based on income. Schools are moving breakfast out of the cafeteria and into the classroom after school starts, something that is known as Breakfast After the Bell.

I am pleased that a new Federal program called Community Eligibility, a program in seven States that allows high-poverty schools to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students without the need for an application, is increasing daily breakfast participation. FRAC found that daily breakfast participation rose by 5 percent in these seven States compared to 2½ percent in nonparticipating States.

We can do better, but this is encouraging. Kids who eat healthy, nutritious meals do better in school and have fewer problems as they grow up. School meals are a critical part of ensuring that kids eat properly. School breakfasts are a big part of the equation. FRAC found that if all States increased participation so they reached 70 poor kids with breakfast for every 100 that ate lunch, 3.8 million children would have been added to the breakfast program, and States would have received more than \$964 million in added Federal nutrition funding in 2012 and 2013.

We should be proud of the work that USDA and States and localities are doing to increase breakfast participation. As we move towards a reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act, we must remember these important programs and build on them. We must do everything we can to end hunger now, and improving on the school breakfast program is just one way to do it.

All of us, Mr. Speaker, both Democrats and Republicans, need to step it up in our battle to end hunger. We should all be ashamed that so many in our country, including millions of our children, go hungry. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, many of the actions that have been taken by this Congress have made hunger worse in this country. We are the richest country in the history of the world. Surely we can do better. Surely we can end hunger now.

EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. NUNNELEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, Tupelo, Mississippi, the town of my birth and my hometown, is known for a lot of things: the birthplace of Elvis Presley; we are the headquarters of the Natchez Trace Parkway. One of the things we are also very proud of is we are the very first TVA city.

Many people around America think of the difference between rural America and city as the difference between whether you have a shopping mall, a lot of nice restaurants, things like

that. Eighty years ago, the differences between rural and urban America were even more stark. That is why today it is my privilege to rise as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Tennessee Valley Authority. In the 1930s, rural America did not have many of the basic things of life like electricity, running water, and a lot of the things that we consider frills today, like radio, music, and news.

As a result, many Americans, particularly younger generations of Americans, were migrating from the small towns and the farms across rural America and moving to the larger cities. Seeing this shift, a couple of visionary members of the Congress, including my predecessor, Mississippi Representative John Rankin, and Senator George Norris from Nebraska, made it their mission to bring electricity to rural America.

On May 18, 1933, the Tennessee Valley Authority was created by this Congress in an effort to improve the living conditions and the economic conditions for seven southern States, including Mississippi. In 1934, President Roosevelt came to Tupelo, Mississippi, and literally flipped the switch to turn on the lights. Shortly after that, north Mississippi became one of the Nation's earliest regions to begin to adopt rural electrification.

Over the past 80 years, the Tennessee Valley Authority has been committed not only to providing reliable, cleaner, and low-cost energy, but also committed to the economic well-being of our region across the Tennessee Valley.

They have worked with local power companies, directly served customers and regional, State, and community development organizations. TVA works to create economic development opportunities around our region, collaboratively focusing on attracting and retaining jobs, capital investment, and helping our communities prepare for growth.

I was once told by my friend and former TVA Chairman Glenn McCollough that the mission of TVA could be summed up in three phrases: keep the lights glowing; the economy going; and the river flowing. Well, for 80 years, TVA has done just that. With current leadership like Richard Howorth from Oxford, who is currently on the TVA board of directors, TVA is helping our region achieve success.

The electricity provided by TVA has helped attract opportunity and success for thousands of people in Mississippi and throughout the valley, allowing them to show the world that we are a friendly, reliable and competitive workforce.

So on this day of commemoration, I say happy 80th anniversary, TVA, and my wish for you is a prosperous and successful future.

IRAN SANCTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, there is no area of foreign policy that produces greater concern amongst American citizens than the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran. Whether Democrat, Independent, or Republican, there is remarkable unity across the ideological spectrum that we must do everything in our power to prevent that outcome.

We have heard the steady drumbeat over the years that Iran is moving closer and closer to achieving nuclear capability. We have seen the regime engage in dangerous provocations and offer support to Hezbollah and other militant groups that have threatened the stability of the region and caused significant concerns for our allies and friends.

The Obama administration worked with our international partners to impose crippling sanctions on Iran. Those sanctions covered Iran's banking, energy, shipping, shipbuilding, insurance, and broadcasting sectors, and even gold and precious metals.

Now, after decades of tension between the United States and Iran and the escalating international pressure of sanctions and isolation, we have seen positive steps in relatively quick succession. After the election of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in 2013, I joined over 130 of my colleagues calling on President Obama to "utilize all diplomatic tools to reinvigorate ongoing nuclear talks," including the potential that "bilateral and multilateral sanctions be calibrated in a way that they induce significant and verifiable concessions."

Those diplomatic overtures, coupled with the debilitating sanctions on Iran's energy and banking sectors, yielded the historic phone call between President Obama and President Rouhani, the first direct contact between leaders of our two nations in 34 years, and, ultimately, the signing of the Joint Plan of Action representing real progress towards a nuclear agreement.

There remain ample reasons to question the prospects of a long-term agreement with Iran. We have heard the President 1 week ago in this very room speak of the challenges for negotiators, cautioning "they may not succeed. We are clear-eyed about Iran's support for terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, which threaten our allies, and the mistrust between our nations cannot be simply wished away."

Now, Members of Congress in both Chambers are discussing legislation for new and expanded sanctions. Our constituents, deeply concerned with the Middle East and strongly in favor of peace, are asking us what we think, how we would vote, and what we should do as a Congress and as a nation.

I have had the honor of serving on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and as a Member have regular access to the classified assessments of the professionals in our intelligence community, who provide a much fuller and clearer picture